

# Side Event of the Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

## Africa Progress Towards SDG 16.9: Legal Identity for All

### Background

At the adoption of the Sustainable Development agenda, in 2015, world leaders placed the attainment of a legal identity as an international development agenda, with Goal 16.9 specifically focusing on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030. Complementing this is target 17.9, which calls for support in strengthening the statistical capacity including for civil registration and vital statistics systems, with an aim to attaining 100% birth registration and 80% death registration. Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.9 is crucial to advancing the 2030 Agenda commitment to leave no one behind. According to a 2020 Report by UNICEF, 20 countries are on track to register the births of all children by 2030. The situation is bleaker for death registration where about only 6 African countries have levels of death registration coverage and cause of death information that meets international standards.

Substantial efforts have been made to improve civil registration rates on the continent. The Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) has been providing the management and programmatic guidance to the regional agenda of reforming and improving CRVS systems. The work of the development partners has been coordinated through the Core Group to ensure that programmes are coordinated and that funds are channelled to the most impactful activities.

Thus, there is need to take stock of the achievements of these interventions in view of the fast-approaching deadline of the 2030 Agenda and identify strategies that African countries need to employ to accelerate the progress towards the targets and goals outlined in the agenda.

### Purpose of the side event

This side event is organized by the secretariat of the Africa programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) in collaboration with partners of the regional CRVS Core group under the umbrella of the APAI-CRVS and the UN Legal Identity Agenda.

The side event provides an opportunity for civil registration authorities, development partners and other CRVS stakeholders to acquire knowledge on the regional progress towards achieving universal legal identity and target 16.9 on birth registration for children under 5 years.

The event will provide an in-depth review of the progress made by African countries towards achievement of SDG 16.9 (“Legal Identity for all including birth registration”) based on recent data. The side event will also provide a platform for sharing of innovative ideas, experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in efforts to implement and support the improvement of CRVS systems in the continent. There will be a focus on measuring who is currently left behind by CRVS system to build a consensus on policy options and actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The event will also provide examples of country progress under the African CRVS decade for repositioning of CRVS in Africa (2017-2026) and the next steps to align with the end of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

### Organisers and Format of the event

This event is organised by the APAI-CRVS Secretariat in collaboration with partners of the regional CRVS Core group. Contact person: William Muhwava [muhawava@un.org](mailto:muhawava@un.org)

### Speakers

1. Mr Oliver Chinganya – Director of ACS (Moderator)
2. William Muhwava – Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics, ACS-ECA

3. Ms Josephine Mukesha – Director General of NIDA Rwanda
4. Mr Olivier Kadanga - Director General of Togo
5. Ms Henrietta Lamptey – Registrar of Births and Deaths Registry of Ghana
6. UNICEF Representative
7. WHO Representative